(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the foreign exchange earning on this world;

(d) whether certain varieties of rice were also imported by the country during the above period;

(e) if so, the year-wise details thereof; and

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The quantity and value of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice exported during the last three years are as follows:—

Quantity: Lakh MTs.

Value: Rs. Crores.

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-Basmati Rice	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1994–95	4.42	865.32	4.48	340.47
1995–96	3.73	850.67	45.41	3717.41
1996–97	4.89	1197.75	19.85	1952.83
1997–98 (Apr.–Aug. '98)	2.19	604.86	6.97	560.24
1996–97 (Apr.–Aug. '97)	2.19	486.18	9.36	885.39

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) to (f) The quantity and value of rice imported during the last three years are as follows:—

Quantity: MTs.

Value: Rs. Lakhs

Year	Quantity	Value
1994–95	6990	855.31
1995–96	80	9.69
1996–97	—	—
1997–98 (April-Aug., '97)	18	2.79

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Import of common/coarse varieties of rice with 50% or more broken has been permitted freely after review of the emerging trends in supply and stock of rice by the Government with effect from 27.05.1997.

Tobacco Board

598. SHRI A.C. JOSE : Will the Minster of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to give more powers to the Tobacco Board to check the sales of tobacco outside the auctions to ensure better prices for the growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Laws, Rules and Regulations administered by this Ministry are reviewed to assess their efficacy and effectiveness in attaining the desired objectives. As and when the situation so warrants, suitable amendments are made to enhance their effectiveness.

Export Performance

599. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export performance of Export Processing Zones and Export Processing Units during the Seventh and Eighth Plan, Unit-wise;